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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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"This release is available electronically on INN (News Net)."

Aug. 13, 1998

**Contact:** Christie Clark, intercollegiate athletics, 243-4336.

### **MONTANA GRIZZLIES HOST GREAT GRIZ ENCOUNTER III**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The Montana Grizzlies officially will kick off the 1998 football season by signing autographs and meeting fans Sunday, Aug. 23, at The University of Montana-Missoula.

The Grizzly football players invite fans to come and play on their turf during the third annual Great Griz Encounter. The free event runs from 3 to 5 p.m. on the field of Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Fans can pick up a free poster bearing this year's game schedule and pictures of two Grizzly standouts -- quarterback Brian Ah Yat and wide receiver Raul Pacheco. The entire team will be available to sign posters and pose for photographs, and fans are encouraged to bring their cameras. Prizes and samples of UM's new line of "Grizzly Edibles" food products will be given away.

New to this year's event is a chance for kids to experience what it's like to be a Grizzly receiver and catch a pass from Ah Yat, one of the nation's leading quarterbacks in Division I-AA.

The public may enter the stadium via the south-side gate at 3 p.m. Because of construction on the west side of Harry Adams Field House, parking on the east side of campus is recommended.

"Our football theme this year is 'Can't Wait? Neither Can We!' But Grizzly fans don't have to wait until the first home game Sept. 12 to see the Griz in action," said Wayne Hogan, Grizzly athletic director. "This is sort of a sneak preview for the whole family."

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Much of the pomp surrounding home games will be offered at the Great Griz Encounter. At 3:20 p.m. Grizzly head coach Mick Dennehy will take the stage and talk briefly about the upcoming season. At 3:25 p.m. the entire Grizzly football team will charge through the smoke-filled tunnel, past fans and onto the field to the tune of "Up With Montana" and the boom of the ROTC cannon. Grizzly cheerleaders also will be on hand to paint kids' faces and apply temporary Grizzly tattoos.

At 4:15 p.m. prize drawings will be held for Grizzly T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, a starter jacket and other logo items. Local vendors will sell Grizzly logowear during the event from tables along the field's sidelines.

Before the team leaves the turf at 4:30 p.m., members will raise their helmets skyward at midfield and sing "Up With Montana," just as they do after each victory.

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Local, special western, Helena Independent Record and Montana Standard  
GrtGriz3.rl